GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1768
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
POWER TO ARMY HEADQUARTER
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;RAMSHETH THAKUR;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to delegate financial and other powers to the Defence Services to meet their immediate requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Defence Services would be able to take decisions on expenditure of about Rs. 3,000 crore without prior approval of the Ministry of Defence;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which this would be helpful to meet the emergency requirement of defence;

(f) the other recommendations made by the Secretary, Defence Accounts; and

(g) the steps taken to implement these recommendations?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): The Government have decided to substantially enhance the financial and administrative powers delegated to the Services Headquarters and lower formations commensurate with operational and administrative requirements at various levels. Accordingly, Services Headquarters and lower formations will be able to take decision on the cases, including those of urgent and emergent requirements, falling within the enhanced delegated powers without prior approval of the Ministry of Defence. The quantum of expenditure which can be sanctioned under such delegated financial powers cannot be assessed at this stage.

(f) & (g): A Committee set up under Secretary (Defence Finance) while recommending enhancement of delegated financial powers, had also, inter-alia, recommended standardisation of Operating Procedures for exercising the enhanced financial powers and reinforcing the financial advice system thereof. Necessary steps to give effect to these recommendations have been initiated.